

REMARKS**Remarks Following the Interview**

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his courteousness in telephoning Applicants' representatives on April 15, 2005, to discuss U.S. Patent No. 6,554,856 to Doorly et al. (hereinafter "Doorly et al."). Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b) and M.P.E.P. § 713.04, the Applicant provides these Remarks Following The Interview.

The claims that appear on page 2 of this Response in the **Listing of the Claims** have been amended as requested by the Examiner to indicate that Claims 31, 32, 34-45 and 48-49 depend on Claim 55. Claims 53 and 54 are canceled.

The Examiner and Applicant's representatives agreed that Doorly does not disclose a method for supporting a body lumen comprising either expanding the lumen into contact with a securing means on the inner surface of a stent by securing the lumen to the securing means or contacting an interior layer of the stent to the lumen thereby securing the lumen to the securing means. This is because even if Doorly does disclose an exterior stent, Doorly does not disclose a stent having a securing means on the inner layer of the stent. Therefore, when the vessel contacts the exterior stent, there is no means of securing the vessel to the stent.

The Examiner attempted to modify Figure 5 of Doorly to be an exterior stent. The stent pictured in Figure 5 is *interior*. See Doorly, Column 2, line 31. Further, there is no disclosure that the stent could be exterior.

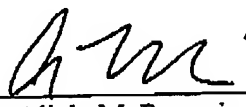
Even if the stent of Figure 5 could permissively be modified to be exterior, there is still no (a) securing means on the interior layer, or (b) teaching regarding securing the lumen to the securing means on the interior layer of the stent. Notably, there is no securing means disclosed on the interior layer of the stent shown in Figure 5 that could conceivably secure to a lumen.

Applicant respectfully submits that the patent application and the claims, as amended, are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant would appreciate the courtesy of a telephone call should the Examiner have any questions or comments with respect to this response or the claim language for purposes of efficiently resolving same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-2026 for any fees associated with this Amendment and Response.

Respectfully submitted,

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